IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing the production, in a producer cell, of an infectious retrovirus comprising an envelope polypeptide, [in a producer cell] which method comprises inhibiting the expression or activity [in the producer cell] of an endogenous receptor on the producer cell which is capable of binding to the envelope polypeptide, thereby blocking binding of the receptor to the envelope polypeptide and enhancing the production of said infectious retrovirus as compared to the production of an infectious retrovirus without inhibition of the endogenous receptor.

2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is selected from Pit1, Pit2 and CD4 and its coreceptors.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the envelope polypeptide is an amphotropic envelope polypeptide.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product ~~capable of binding to and effecting the cleavage, directly or indirectly, of~~ that binds to a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor, or to a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence ~~thereof~~.

5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 19, [[4,]] wherein the gene product is selected from a ribozyme, an anti-sense ribonucleic acid and an external guide sequence.

6. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 4, wherein the gene product is expressed by a ~~viral~~ vector.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1 wherein the retrovirus is a lentivirus.

10. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1 which further comprises isolating the infectious retrovirus produced by the producer cell.

11. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an infectious retrovirus obtained by the method of claim 10.

12. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 11 for use in therapy.

13. (Currently amended) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition which method comprises isolating [[an]] the infectious retrovirus produced by the producer cell according to the method of claim 1 and admixing the isolated infectious retrovirus with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

14. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a ribozyme capable of binding to an effecting the cleavage of an RNA encoding a *pit2* receptor.

15. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid according to claim 14 comprising a nucleotide sequence as shown in Figure 1 or a variant thereof capable of binding to an effecting the cleavage of an RNA encoding a *pit2* receptor.

16. (Currently amended) A producer cell ~~in which the capacity for producing an infectious retrovirus is enhanced by a method~~ according to the method of claim 1, wherein expression or activity of the receptor is inhibited, thereby blocking the binding of the receptor to the envelope polypeptide.

17. (Currently amended) A producer cell ~~in which the~~ comprising an infectious retrovirus comprising an envelope polypeptide, wherein expression or activity of an endogenous receptor on the producer cell is inhibited, thereby blocking the binding of the receptor~~, capable of binding~~ to the envelope polypeptide ~~of a retrovirus, is inhibited~~.

18. (Currently amended) [[A]] The producer cell according to claim 17, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, ~~which expresses~~ a gene product ~~capable of binding to and effecting the cleavage, directly or indirectly, of~~ that binds to a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor, or to a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence ~~thereof~~.

19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product that cleaves, directly or indirectly, a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor or a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the gene product is expressed by a vector.

21. (New) The producer cell according to claim 17, wherein the expression of the receptor is inhibited by expressing, in the producer cell, a gene product that cleaves, directly or indirectly, a nucleotide sequence encoding the receptor or a transcription product of the nucleotide sequence.